

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02777 012229Z

ACTION ARA-14

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 HA-05 IO-13 HEW-04 AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8292

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2777

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEDU SOCI SHUM PINT ES

SUBJ: SOME PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO GOES' "NATIONAL PLAN OF WELFARE FOR ALL, 1978-82"

REF: STATE 111453

1. PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO THE GOES' WIDELY TOUTED "NATIONAL PLAN OF WELFARE FOR ALL, 1978-82" ("BIENESTAR PARA TODOS") HAVE RANGED FROM AN EXPECTED OPTIMISM ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN TO OUTRIGHT SKEPTICISM ON THE PART OF MOST REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OPPOSITION. IN A RECENT TALK WITH EMBOFF, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT ROGELIO CHAVEZ INDICATED THAT GOES WAS PINNING ITS HOPES ON THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS OF "BIENESTAR PARA TODOS", RATHER THAN ON MORE DRASTIC MEASURES SUCH AS LAND REFORM, AS A MEANS OF ENSURING A MEASURE OF SOCIAL PEACE WITHIN EL SALVADOR.

2. AT A RECENT AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON WHERE MINISTER OF PLANNING JOSE EDUARDO REYES SPOKE ABOUT "BIENESTAR PARA TODOS", ONE BUSINESS EXECUTIVE COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT SPEECH REMINDED HIM OF "FANTASYLAND" IN DISNEY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 02777 012229Z

WORLD. HE ADDED THAT PLAN AS PRESENTED BY REYES WAS BEAUTIFUL IN THEORY BUT WOULD NOT WORK OUT IN PRACTICE.

3. GUILLERMO MANUEL UNGO, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MNR), IN A CONVERSATION WITH CAO, STATED THAT REACTION OF MAN-IN-THE-STREET WAS THAT "BIENESTAR PARA TODOS" WOULD MEAN NOTHING

MORE THAN HIGHER TAXES. IN ITS REGULAR COLUMN IN THE MAY 26 EDITION OF THE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER "LA CRONICA", THE FEDERATION OF UNIONS OF CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION WORKERS (FESINCONSTRANS), THE LEADING FEDERATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT IN EL SALVADOR, POINTED OUT INADEQUACIES OF PLAN. THE COLUMN STATED THAT "THERE CAN ONLY BE 'WELFARE FOR ALL' WHEN A COUNTRY LIVES UNDER A SYSTEM OF FULL DEMOCRACY; WHEN INJUSTICES ARE NOT COMMITTED IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY AND WHEN THE NECESSARY INTERESTS OF THE EXPLOITED CLASS ARE NOT TOYED WITH. THERE CAN BE 'WELFARE FOR ALL' ONLY WHEN INSTITUTIONALIZED VIOLENCE, WHICH HAS PROCEEDED TO THE EXTENT OF PITTING BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER IN THE RURAL AREAS, DISAPPEARS FROM OUR MIDST."

4. COMMENT. THESE COMMENTS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS THE DEFINITIVE REACTION TO THE GOES PLAN OF "BIENESTAR PARA TODOS" AS GOVERNMENT HAS ARGUABLY NOT HAD A FULL CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE IMPLICATIONS AND RAMIFICATIONS OF PLAN. NEVERTHELESS, THESE PRELIMINARY REACTIONS INDICATE THAT GOES WILL HAVE AN UPHILL FIGHT IN OVERCOMING SKEPTICISM OF OPPOSITION GROUPS. INITIAL REACTIONS ALSO INDICATE THAT GOES WILL HAVE HARD TIME ARGUING THAT PLAN IS AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR MORE WIDE-RANGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REFORMS AND THE NEED FOR POLITICAL CHANGES.

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PAGE 03 SAN SA 02777 012229Z

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